(ग) देश में बाघों की संख्या में वृद्धि संतोषजनक है । केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित स्कीम बाघ परियोजना के अन्तर्गत व्यय देश के बाघ रिजर्वों में बाघों की वृद्धि के अनुरूप है ।

(घ) राष्ट्रीय उद्यान तथा अभ्यारण्य जो कि बाघ रिजर्व है, में और उनके चारों ओर बाघों तथा अन्य वन्य पशुओं द्वारा की गई हत्या के लिए मुआवजे देने हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य सरकारों की मांग पर उन्हें 50 प्रतिशत वित्तीय सहायता मुहैय्या करती है।

Seizure of FTS Documents in Bombay by the Enforcement Directorate

2552. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate at Bombay had seized some FTS documents etc. some time in 1986 from American Express Bank Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Travel Agency which submit those FTS documents;

(c) whether instead of charging the American Express Bank for the main violations under FERA the Travel Agency and its employees were charged with the main guilt and nominal action suggested against the Bank;

(d) whether the American Express Bank had over Rs. 3.5 crores (about US $3.5 lakhs) of illegal amount against false FTS and A-2 forms;

(e) whether the said Directorate failed to seize the above amount; and

(f) whether Government have taken any action against the officials who showed dereliction of their duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) M/s. Dhuru Travels, Ulhasnagar, M/s. J. M. Travels, Bombay and Shri Mukesh Keswani, Ulhasnagar were the travel agents who had submitted FTS forms.

(c) No, Sir. Four show cause notices have been issued to M/s. American Express Bank Ltd.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Enforcement Directorate has seized Indian currency of Rs. 8,16,235 and U.S. $11,750 besides other incriminating documents from the Bank. On the basis of investigations made, four show cause notices for contravention of Section 8(1), 6(4), 6(5) and 49 of FERA, 1973 involving an amount of US $30,01,500 have been issued to M/s. American Express Bank Ltd., M/s. Dhuru Travels and Shri Mukesh Keswani.

(f) The question does not arise.

Reservation for Women in Legislatures

2553. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to amend the Constitution so as to provide for reservation to women in Indian legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): No, Sir.

Secret Accounts of Indians in Swiss Banks

2554. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that draft

accord has been worked out with secret accounts held by Indians with Department with regard to unveiling the secrecy of accounts in Swiss banks in connection with the accounts of Indians over there;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay and by when the accord is likely to be signed; and

(c) whether it is possible to unveil secret accounts held by Indians without signing accord with Swiss authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality, and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. To ensure reciprocity, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between the two Governments. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

Swiss Bank Accounts of Indians

2555. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri N. D. Tiwari, the then Finance Minister said last year that without signing accord with Swiss authorities identity of illegal transaction in Swiss Banks by Indians can be established; and

(b) how far the negotiations with Swiss authorities have progressed for pursuing illegal accounts involving criminal offence by Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality, and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. To ensure reciprocity, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between the two Governments. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

FERA Violation Cases against Shri L. M. Thapar

2556. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest position with regard to the FERA violation cases against Shri L. M. Thapar; and

(b) whether Shri Thapar has deposited the money due against him; if so, what are the details in this regard?